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## Old Duxbury Houses

Mr. Charles R. Crocker of the General Committee, sub-chairman of the committee on marking old houses, submits the following list of houses and other locations which have been marked up to the present time.

The Ricker house	1755
Sylvanus Sampson house	1793
Mary Gifford house	1803
Gov. Prentice Farm	1643
Christopher Wadsworth house	1638
Samuel Chandler Farm	1730
George Murray house	1785
Kenneth Buntin house	1766
John Cushing house	1755
Harry Randall house	1800
Franklin Brett house	1787
George Worcester house	1710
Levi Simon's house	1695
Frank Hoyt's house	1793
Margaret Edgar house	1655
Gordon Tweed house	1807
Louise Coburn Cottage	1643
King Phillip's Spring	1710
School Site, Ashdod	1736
Mrs. Edward Southworth house	1755

There's the home of Judge Arthur Beane on Washington street, a fine example of a ship captain's house built about 1790 with the finest collection of early American furnishings we have seen outside the museums. The seven-foot fireplace with its mantle lined with old pewter; the dignified drawing room with Chinese tea paper in silver flecked with red, duckfoot wing chairs and tambour; the dining room with Palais Royal scenic paper, corner cupboard filled with Fitz-Hugh Lowestoft and the upstairs chamber where every canopied bed, every highboy, old print, length of chintz and wall paper is so exactly right as to constitute perfection. Judge and Mrs. Beane have shown the same discrimination in collecting that the committees who buy for museums must exhibit.

Guests in Duxbury today will wander up the flagged path to the old King Caesar home, the stately home Ezra Weston built around 1775, overlooking Duxbury harbor. Scenic papers that date back 125 years hang on the walls of the King Caesar house, now owned by Dr. and Mrs. H. C. Bumpus. Intricate panelled wood work and fireplace and ceiling friezes carved on long voyages by ship's carpenters adorn the house and a steeple, stolen by pirates from some Spanish church, then taken by King Caesar's men from the pirates, adorns one wing of the house. There's a bricked-in smuggler's cellar and a compass set in the flags leading to the front door as reminders of Ezra Weston, the biggest ship owner of his day.

At Plumfield, Mr. Thomas P. Murray has assembled a collection of rare things from the far corners of the earth and from Cape Cod, arranged them against a lovely background of panelled woodwork, fireplaces tiled in lavender, recessed windows looking out toward the sea. Color harmony, serenity and charm make Plumfield unforgettable.

The Gamaliel Bradford House is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bittering, and the exterior has been one of our Duxbury loves for years. The dignified facade of soft-hued old brick with a towering smoke bush growing against it, the terraced garden at the side which there's reason to think was laid out by Acadians brought down under Governor Winslow. The walls of the Bittering house are hung with paintings, etchings and sketches by famous artists as well as many of Mr. Bittering's own paintings. The rooms are lofty, spacious, beautifully proportioned and full of an effortless charm and dignity.

The earliest of the houses is Mr. and Mrs. Albert Geiger's, built in 1654 with beams and old panelling as fine, Ned Ford believes, as that from the Ipswich house now in the Metropolitan Museum. Gun stock and suma beams, hall flooring of old

brick, original bullseye glass lights and other unspoiled 17th century features will delight visitors. All in all, Duxbury and Marshfield will have a rewarding afternoon for those who make the "peregrination."